

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY 15 FEBRUARY 2022**

**ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR: NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENFORCEMENT SERVICES**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on our Active Travel work both in terms of strategy development and ongoing projects.
- 1.2 The primary aim of our Active Travel work is to increase levels of walking and cycling in the borough. This will support our communities in a number of ways including improving health and wellbeing, supporting the decarbonisation of transport and connecting communities.
- 1.3 This update identifies the range of work that is ongoing including:
  - Development of a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and related strategy updates
  - Public consultation and data collection
  - Funding opportunities
  - Silkin Way investment plan
  - Other ongoing projects

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Communities Committee endorse the approach to Active Travel and progress made to date as outlined in this report.
- 2.2 That Communities Committee consider the approach to develop a Local Cycling & Walking Investment Plan (LCWIP) and associated strategy refresh and whether there are any interventions that could be bought forward.

### **3. IMPACT OF ACTION**

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1 During 2019 we recognised that our approach to Sustainable Travel (which includes Active Travel) needed prioritisation at a local level with no significant national funding available.
- 3.2 Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was acknowledged that these policies needed updating to reflect the changing position, and as result, work commenced on reviewing and updating these strategies.
- 3.3 The need to develop our approach has been accelerated by the significant change in travel habits through the pandemic, with more people using active travel options in their day to day lives

#### **4. Consultation & Data Collection**

- 4.1 In May 2020, prior to commencing work on revised strategies and schemes, a public consultation was undertaken to inform the current public perception and needs surrounding active travel. This consultation received a over 500 responses and the data will be used to shape projects going forward.

#### **5. Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan**

- 5.1 A key action is to update our current strategies to ensure they are fit for purpose, which includes creating a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). This document provides a long-term approach to developing and improving local cycling and walking networks, to increase the number of trips made on foot or by cycle.
- 5.2 In developing our LCWIP we have:
- Considered intelligence from the 2020 consultation and route inspections
  - Used local and national data to determine potential trip generators and understand how our residents and visitors travel around the borough
  - Undertaken internal stakeholder workshops

#### **6. Funding**

- 6.1 There are a variety of funding streams to deliver Active Travel schemes across the borough which include:
- **Travel Telford Sustainable Transport Fund** - £2.6m Council investment over 4 years from the £50m Highways capital programme.
  - **Department for Transport (DfT) Active Travel Fund (formerly Emergency Active Travel Fund)** - £76k for The Wrekin and Local Centres and £229,500 for the A518 Connectivity Package
  - **DfT Revenue – Capability funding** - £181k to develop infrastructure plans and carry out behavior change activities

- 6.2 In 2021, a bid to the DfT for £1.8m was submitted to carry out improvements along the Silkin Way, as identified in the Silkin Way Investment Plan. The improvements would focus on improved crossing facilities along the whole route and route improvements through Central Park, Snedshill and Oakengates where the route is less attractive to users.
- 6.3 A decision from the DfT has been delayed but is now expected in spring. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Enforcement and Transport along with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Green Spaces, Natural and Historic Environment and Cultural Services have recently written to the new head of Active Travel England asking for support with the bid.
- 6.4 It is anticipated that additional funding opportunities for Active Travel will be available in order to realise our plans.

## **7. Silkin Way Investment Plan**

- 7.1 The Silkin Way is a key 14 mile walking/cycling route running north to south of the borough serving many of our communities, employment sites and local points of interest.
- 7.2 We have developed a comprehensive £8m investment plan to improve this leisure and commuter route to bring the whole route to a flagship standard. Such investment will encourage more people to use the route for both leisure and commuting.
- 7.3 Before work started on the Silkin Way project a survey was launched to find out how satisfied residents were with the existing condition of the route. This will help shape future plans to ensure we are meeting expectations of existing and future users of the Silkin Way. 555 people responded and the key findings were:
- 35% use the route daily and 30% weekly
  - 77% people use the route for leisure
  - Most people rated the route at 3 on a scale on 1-5 (5 being the highest and 1 the lowest)
  - Lighting was rated 1 by 40% showing that this is a key area for improvement
- 7.4 This project will include work in a wide range of areas including:
- Signing
  - Lighting & CCTV
  - Crossing Points
  - Street Furniture

## **8. Other Projects**

- 8.1 Work has recently been completed on the A518 Connectivity Package, which was delivered following the successful bid to the DfT Active Travel Fund. The scheme has provided a link between Clock Tower Roundabout and Kynnersley Drive. This route provides an alternative to the route of NCN55 that uses rural lanes through The Humbers, and therefore enables easier and safer travel between Muxton and Newport, and then onto our wider cycle network
- 8.2 In order to promote cycle use and secure storage in the borough, a project to install additional cycle parking spaces started in 2020. In the first two phases of this project, there have been 176 cycle stands provided to local communities following engagement with all Ward Members, Town/Parish Councils and local businesses. It is the intention to continue to provide these facilities in future phases, and will again look to our communities to indicate where they are required.

## **9. Further Information**

More in depth information is included within Appendix A

## **10. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

N/A

## **11. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

N/A

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Transport Strategy Update, Communities Scrutiny October 2021  
(Presentation)

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## **Appendix A – Active Travel Overview**